

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:RWINSTANLEY

APPROVED BY S/S-O:GTWOHIE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHAIGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 256079

EXDIS

MILITARY COMMANDS HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

THE FOLLOWING REPEATS AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 13925

ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV CAIRO DAMASCUS

USUN NEW YORK 20 NOVEMBER 1974. QUOTE:

S E C R E T BEIRUT 13925

EXDIS

DEPT PASS DIA WASHDC AND USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PMIL PINS LE IS US

SUBJECT: LEBANESE ANXIETY OVER PROSPECT OF ISRAELI ATTACK

1. IN WAKE OF BET SHEAN TERRORIST ATTACK AND SUBSEQUENT STATEMENTS BY ISRAELI DEFMIN PERES (FBIS TA191540), LEBANESE POLITICAL LEADERS, PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION ALIKE HAVE BECOME FAR MORE APPREHENSIVE THAN USUAL RE IMMINENT LIKELIHOOD OF HEAVIER ISRAELI REPRISAL RAIDS ON LEBANON. FEDAYEEN ARE REPORTEDLY ON ALERT IN REFUGEE CAMPS AND SOUTH LEBANON, AND THEIR MOST PROMINENT LEADERS HAVE

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(PREDICTABLY) EITHER GONE INTO HIDING OR TAKEN THEMSELVES TO

AMASCUS FOR TIME BEING. LEBANESE ARMY IS ALSO ON FULL ALERT, WITH SENIOR MILITARY COMMANDERS EXHIBITING CONSIDERABLE ANXIETY OVER PRECISE SCOPE, TIMING AND TARGETS OF WHAT THEY EXPECT WILL BE UNUSUALLY STRONG IDF RESPONSE. MANY PERSONS ARE BETTING THAT ISRAELIS WILL USE OCCASION OF NOV. 22 CELEBRATION OF LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY TO LAUNCH SUCH ATTACKS.

2. LAST EVENING FONMIN TAQLA RAISED THIS PROBLEM WITH ME AND NOTED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED IDF'S DAILY SHELLINGS AND OTHER FREQUENT ATTACKS ON LEBANESE TERRITORY WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO NOV. 13 (STATE 251452). HE RECALLED HE HAD REQUESTED THAT USG QTE DO SOMETHING UNQTE TO RESTRAIN ISRAELIS IN THIS REGARD. SINCE THEN, SAID TAQLA, ISRAELI SEA RAID ON RASHIDIYEH CAMP, SHELLING OF TOWN OF NABATIYEH AND FURTHER BORDER INCIDENTS (BEIRUT 13679, PLUS DAO 773 AND 760) HAVE RESULTED IN FURTHER DESTRUCTION, CASUALTIES AND KIDNAPPINGS, INCLUDING SEVERAL LEBANESE. NOTING AGAIN THAT IDF REPRISAL RAIDS CAN ONLY PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, TAQLA EXPRESSED FEAR THAT SITUATION IS RAPIDLY GETTING OUT OF HAND AND ASKED ME TO REITERATE HIS REQUEST TO UNDER SECRETARY SISCO THAT US DO WHATEVER IT CAN TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING. (LEBANESE ARMY DEPUTY COS FOR OPERATIONS, BRIG. KANAAN, MADE SIMILAR PITCH TO EMBOFF MORNING NOV. 20, NOTING THAT RECENT INTENSIFICATION OF "INFERNAL CYCLE" OF LEBANESE-ISRAELI HOSTILITIES SERVES NO ONE'S INTERESTS, EXCEPT THOSE OF PALESTINIAN AND ARAB EXTREMISTS.) TAQLA SAID HE HOPES RECEIVE RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FROM USG AND UNDER SECRETARY SISCO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. I REPLIED TO TAQLA ALONG SAME LINES TAKEN BY SISCO (STATE 251452) AND BY DCM HOUGHTON IN HIS NOV 11 CONVERSATION WITH PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKER KAMEL ASSAD (BEIRUT 13499). AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, I UNDERTOOK TO REPORT HIS LATEST DEMARCHE TO DEPT. I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT CURRENT LEBANESE OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC ANXIETY OVER WHAT TO EXPECT IN WAKE OF DEVELOPMENTS CITED PARA 1 ABOVE LENDS GREATER URGENCY TO TAQLA'S REQUEST.

GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TERRORISTS, REPRISALS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE256079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:RWINSTANLEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740336-0318
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741126/aaaaawai.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE ANXIETY OVER PROSPECT OF ISRAELI ATTACK
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PINS, LE, IS, US
To: DIA USCINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005